

## NOAA In Your State

# Connecticut

*“NOAA’s science based work touches 300 million Americans daily, protecting lives and livelihoods. NOAA’s products and services are the result of the hard work of our dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the globe. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state or territory. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns.”*

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

### CT

#### Statewide

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [New England Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program](#)**

The NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). The New England B-WET Program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one’s community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. New England B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#)**

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States’ Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitats and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles).

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the Northeast “multispecies complex” (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, sea herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key

marine endangered species in this region are northern right whales, Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon, and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories, the Center uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, *Victor Loosanoff*, and *Nauvoo*. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)**

NMFS Restoration Center works with municipal, state, and other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners in Connecticut to restore tidal wetlands, remove dams and other barriers to migratory fishes, modify culverts, construct fishways to restore fish runs, implement project to increase coastal resiliency, control non-native invasive plants, and restore submerged aquatic vegetation and native shellfish populations. Staff from NMFS' Narragansett, Rhode Island Laboratory are available to provide others with technical assistance for projects in Connecticut.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Northeast Division](#)**

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coast states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Office of Law Enforcement's Northeast Division is headquartered in Gloucester, Massachusetts, with field offices in Boston, New Bedford and Woods Hole, as well as in Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Maryland.

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Office for Coastal Management](#)**

The NOAA Office for Coastal Management practices a partner-based, boots on the ground approach to coastal management. The organization currently has staff in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Gulf of Mexico, West Coast, Pacific Islands, and the Great Lakes regions to provide assistance to local, state, and regional coastal resource management efforts and facilitate customer feedback and assessments. The office has staff located in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine to coordinate the deployment of NOAA resources in New England. These employees represent NOAA on several regional ocean governance initiatives (e.g., Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Gulf of Maine Council), coordinate NOAA involvement in ocean observing system activities, and support research reserves, coastal zone management, and other NOAA and state coordinated activities.

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Geodetic Advisor](#)**

The Geodetic Advisor is a jointly funded National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in the state to provide liaison between NOS and the host state. The Geodetic Advisor guides and assists the state's charting, geodetic and surveying programs through technical expertise. The program is designed to fill a need for more accurate geodetic surveys, and is in response to the desire of states to improve their surveying techniques to meet Federal Geodetic Control subcommittee standards and specifications. The surveys provide the basis for all forms of mapping and engineering projects and monitoring of the dynamic Earth. This program also provides technical assistance in planning and implementing Geographic/Land Information System (GIS/LIS) projects.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Automated Surface Observing Systems [Stations](#)**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are eight ASOS stations in Connecticut.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Cooperative Observer Program [Sites](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS.

The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine homeowners' monthly energy bills. There are 2844 COOP sites in Connecticut.

### **National Weather Service (NWS) - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards [Transmitters](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as 911 Telephone outages). NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are four NWR transmitters in Connecticut.

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Connecticut Sea Grant College Program](#)**

NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education and outreach (extension and communications). Sea Grant forms a network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. Connecticut Sea Grant supports the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources through research, technology transfer, and education in its statewide program. Current research targets estuaries and ecosystem health, with a particular emphasis on projects with relevance to the Long Island Sound and its watershed. Topics include aquaculture, coastal ecosystems and economies, climate adaptation, water quality, seafood and fisheries. Connecticut's Sea Grant Extension staff collaborates with industry and conduct outreach activities in the target research areas. The K-12 education program includes professional development for educators, curriculum consultation, dissemination of resources, program/project evaluation, creating connections between scientists and educators, and facilitating scientists' outreach activities.

### **[Coastal](#)**

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)**

The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program—called for in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—is currently conducting a three-year field research effort off the Northeastern U.S. The 2012-2015 field research will not only improve knowledge about deep-sea life off the Northeastern seaboard, but will also inform the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils in their efforts to manage commercial and recreational fisheries that depend on these and other important habitats.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Species Recovery Program](#)**

Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. Twenty-five coastal states, including Connecticut and U.S. territories, currently participate in this program.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network](#)**

The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, track factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)**

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There is one stranding network member in the state.

NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Since 2001, \$48.2 million has been awarded to 552 grantees who raised over \$15.9 million in matching funds. In FY15, 34 grantees received \$2.7 million nationwide, with one award going to one recipient in Connecticut: Sea Research Foundation, Inc.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Mid-Atlantic](#) and [Northeastern](#) Regional Associations Coastal Ocean Observing System**

U.S. IOOS® is envisioned to be an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) is one of these Regional Associations and its coverage extends from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod including the estuaries and the continental shelf waters in this region. MARACOOS provides the necessary ocean observing, data management, and forecasting capacity to systematically address prioritized themes maritime safety, ecosystem based management, water quality, coastal inundation, and offshore energy development.

The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) was established to network and expand the existing observing and prediction capacities of a multitude of institutions and agencies throughout New England and Maritime Canada. NERACOOS supports infrastructure that provides over-water meteorological and wave observations in Long Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine to the National Weather Service that are critical to safe navigation. These platforms also support current and dissolved oxygen sensors that provide critical information for management of hypoxia and harmful algal bloom. Fisheries managers, water quality specialists, the Coast Guard, and many others benefit from accurate and timely ocean observing infrastructure and related decision support tools. The region includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. There is overlap with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MARACOOS), which also includes the coastal waters of Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are involved.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)**

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Connecticut. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Connecticut and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)**

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. To date CELCP has protected more than 100,000 acres of land nationally and awarded five projects in Connecticut. The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on these important lands that are threatened by development. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. CELCP has created an interactive map highlighting information about completed projects in your state.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal Management Fellowship](#)**

The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship matches postgraduate students with state coastal zone programs to work on two-year projects proposed by the state or territory. The Connecticut Office of Long Island Sound Programs is hosting a fellow who will develop a program of compensation for shoreline armoring under Connecticut's coastal regulatory program.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal Management Program](#)**

Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Office of Long Island Sound Programs to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Connecticut. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management provides the coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure our coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Northeast Regional Ocean Council](#)**

To maintain quality constituent service, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff in this region work with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the coastal states on this board by representing NOAA and serving in leadership roles in three priority areas: ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience and ocean and coastal ecosystem health. These staff also coordinate the deployment of NOAA products and services in this region.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)**

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP is working with the University of Hartford in Connecticut to develop "From Shore to State House", a college-level experiential and service-learning course on marine debris.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [New England Environmental Response Management Application](#)**

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. New England ERMA® is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers. In 2007, ERMA began as a pilot project in Portsmouth, N.H. It was eventually expanded to all New England states, where it has been used to assist response efforts during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and the Spill of National Significance exercise in 2010.



## **CT-2**

### ***New London***

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [PORTS®](#)**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) in New London provides real-time oceanographic data and other navigation products to promote safe and efficient navigation within U.S. waters. This system is comprised of a water level (tide) gauge and a current meter.

#### **Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - [NOAA Corps Officer Training Center](#)**

On December 21, 2012, the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps graduated the first class of officers to be trained alongside the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) officer candidates at the NOAA Corps Officer Training Center (NCOTC). NCOTC is co-located with the USCG's Officer Candidate School on the grounds of the USCG Academy. NCOTC provides training to new officers during the Basic Officer Training Class (BOTC) as well as training experienced officers returning to sea duty through refresher classes. BOTC is a very demanding and fast-paced program with three principal objectives that include introduction and orientation to the NOAA organization and its missions; introduction to the customs, duties and responsibilities as a commissioned officer in a uniformed service; and development of maritime and nautical skills, with emphasis on shipboard operations, organization and management, small boat handling, marine navigation, ship handling, seamanship, and related subjects.

Approximately 50 percent of the training curriculum is provided during formal classroom instruction and the remainder takes place during field activities, labs, and underway training. Comprehensive exams and practical demonstrations of leadership, management and seagoing skills are important aspects of the program. In order to reinforce an understanding of shipboard organization and operations, the Class is organized and operated similar to a shipboard environment. Officers are considered to be on call 24 hours per day, seven days a week; the normal workday will begin at 0500 (5:00 am) and will end at 2200 (10:00 pm). Weekends are filled with various training events, both maritime and leadership related. BOTC is in session for approximately five months and upon completion of the training, officers are assigned to a NOAA ship for approximately three years of sea duty.

## **CT-2, 4**

### ***New London, Bridgeport***

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)**

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates two long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Connecticut, which provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at New London and Bridgeport. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

## **CT-3**

### ***Milford***

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Milford Laboratory](#)**

The Milford Laboratory was established in 1931 with support of the shellfish industry, and is one of two large aquaculture research facilities within NMFS. Present research emphasizes studies on the culture of shellfish, particularly oyster, to develop methods suitable for commercial use as well as for stock enhancement and restoration.

### *New Haven*

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [PORTS®](#)**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in New Haven Harbor at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time data are available for water level and meteorological data from one location.

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# **Connecticut**

**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

